

## OFFICE LETTER

To Bruce Crawford, State Director	Office	Date Feb. 7, 1941
From Juanita S. Dilley	Office	Referring to County History
Subject The churches of Pocahontas		File

Separate sheet for each subject. Omit all formalities. For office letters only.

You will notice that only a few churches were built before the Civil War, and that a very few were built just after the war. Most of them were built between 1890 and 1920. The reason for that is this; the lumber companies were coming into the county, and every land owner had timber to sell. There was a saw mill ever consequently money was plentiful. Also the lumber for building was right at hand, so every little community went to work and built a church. Many more were built than can now be supported, and more than is really needed at this time. Some of them should never have been built to begin with. Church union has done every with some of them, and others will be abandoned as time goes by. Church quarrels must be handled very tactfully, as sometimes merely talking about them brings to mind to much that needs be forgotten.

J. S. S.

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION REPORT

Subject Pocahontas County History  
Chapter 6 Religion

Date February 7, 1941

Researcher Walter Juanita S. Dilley

Date Research Taken Dec. 23, Jan. and Feb. 1,

Typist Juanita S. Dilley

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Source Used Books 42, 46, 48

Date Filed

Church records

Rev. Snyder, Rev. Slackhurst, E. Forrest Hull, Willie

Wilmoth, Mrs. George Lincoln

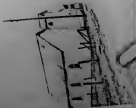




DURBIN CHURCHES

and narrow Methodist Church. To the right is the old original part, while to the left is the new addition.

The old M. E. Church







### DURBIN CHURCHES

M. Blackhurst, an M. E. preacher, was the first preacher to hold services in the town of Durbin. These first services were held in a tent. The next year Charlie Curtis built a blacksmith shop and let them use that as a place of worship.

In the year of 1904 Albert VanDevender, junior pastor under John W. McNeil of the Greenbank circuit, came to Durbin and organized an M. E. South class of the following members:

Charles C. Burner-----from travelers Repose  
Bettie Burner-----" " "  
Peter D. Arbogast-----" " "  
Eddie Arbogast-----" " "  
Willie Wilmoth-----" " "  
H. E. Arbogast-----" " "  
Charles W. Arbogast-----" Greenbank  
Maggie Arbogast-----" "  
Mary Arbogast-----" "  
Andrew M. Oliver-----" Cass  
Maud Oliver -----" "  
Thomas M. Keirns -----" "  
Virginia Bird -----" "

Link Burner, Mathew Kelley, Mrs. S. M. Singley, Roberta Burner, V. G. Sutton, Carrie Sutton, Annie L. Eades, Edna Cassell, Kennis B. Kelley, James Folks, Elizabeth Folks, Mary Folks and Edith Folks.

Since there were both M. S. and M. E. South members and the town was small, it was decided that they would go together

and build one church to be used by both denominations, so a lot was secured from John T. McGraw and the church was built. It was not long, however, until the M. E. preacher went there one morning to preach and found the door locked from the inside. Therefore, on April 3, 1907 a lot was bought from John T. McGraw and a deed was given to F. C. Miner, James Kider, Thomas M. Kairns, A. W. Kairns, A. W. Unger, and L. Simmons, trustees of the M. E. Church.

On May 3, 1910 the M. E. South members bought from John T. McGraw (for he owned all Durbin) and built a Parsonage. This deed was given to F. H. Yeager, Dyer Gum, A. B. Arbogast, Andrew M. Oliver, F. E. Moore, M. Q. Burr and W. E. Carpenter, trustees of the parsonage.

The deed for the M. E. parsonage was given Sept. 29, 1912 to James M. Ellinger, W. W. Marshall and Austin Dottinghen, trustees.

From 1907 until 1939 these churches remained separate, but in 1939 Dr. D. L. Snyder was sent to the circuit to unite the two congregations. The union took place in November of that year.

Since the M. E. South church was the larger and better church, they decided to remodel it into a united church, so the M. E. church was sold for \$300. and the parsonage for \$1300. and this money applied to the new addition. A basement and Sunday school rooms has been built at a cost of around \$10,000.

There are 267 members, about 50% of them having been transferred from the M. E. Church. One board of trustees has been appointed to take the place of the four separate boards. They are: M. A. Stanton, Mrs. A. E. Burner, W. W. Hoover, C. Forrest Hull, Mona Hull, Grace Kiser, Odith Lambert, W. F. Lambert, C. G. Mack.

Betty Berg, Mrs. Max Foscover, Mrs. W. L. Stokes, Isaac Vance,  
Edith Townsend, Mrs. G.C. Watts, Mrs. J. L. Williams, June  
Stewart, Ralph Bassett, and Hedrick Cromer.

Dr. Snyder, himself, is acting as Supt. until the union is  
completed.

The Adult Division Supt. is Mrs. J. L. Williams.

Young Peoples Division Supt. Mrs. Max Foscover

Childrens Division Supt. Mrs. W. W. Hoover

Cradle Roll Division Supt. Mrs. Ethel Kerrode

Mrs. H.M. Widney is the President of the Womens Society  
of Christian Service, with 68 members. Mrs. Max Foscover is the  
President of the Girls Standard Bearers Missionary Society, with  
25 members.

Dr. Snyder is a grand organizer and he has gotten them  
together in a fine harmony. Some think he made a mistake by  
appointing himself as the Supt. instead of some one in the  
membership. They are afraid that when he leaves that there will  
be trouble over the selection of a Supt.

note-I promised not to have included in the history  
this little incident, but it is so humorous that I am going to  
relate it, only please do not put it in the book. It was Andy  
Oliver who locked the church against the M. B. members. He went  
into the church and locked it on the inside then undertook to climb  
out <sup>through</sup> the window. He dislodged the window stick and the window